

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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R 180852Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6363

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2451

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 2451 VICE 24511)

3.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR, ZA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO LUSAKA

SUMMARY: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAMBIA IS PART OF AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE INTEREST OF ENSURING A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS FOR FRENCH INDUSTRY AND A MARKET FOR FRENCH PRODUCTS. GUIRINGAUD ASSURED ZAMBIANS OF FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA AND PLEDGED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. ZAMBIANS REMINDED FRENCH VISITORS OF THEIR CONTINUED DISAPPROVAL OF FRENCH TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ECONOMIC, NUCLEAR AND MILITARY. FRENCH REGARD THE VISIT AS A SUCCESS.

1. DE GUIRINGAUD'S PROGRAM (AUGUST 14-16) FOLLOWED TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF MEETINGS WITH ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER, LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND DINNER GIVEN BY MWALE. MEETINGS ALSO WERE ARRANGED WITH ZAPU AND ZANU.

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2. PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE POINTEDLY REMINDED GUIRINGAUD OF FRANCE'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND NUCLEAR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND OF THE PRESENCE OF FRENCH WEAPONS IN RHODESIA. MWALE REMINDED VISITORS OF PAST FRENCH PROMISES TO ENFORCE A TOTAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. PRESS PICKED UP THIS THEME AND CAST DOUBTS

ON FRENCH PROMISES TO END MILITARY LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. MWALE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIAN INITIATIVE AS LONG AS WEST DOES NOT COOPERATE IN "ROOTING OUT RACIAL OPPRESSION AND REPRESSION".

3. DE GUIRINGAUD IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS STRESSED FRANCE'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE SAID FRANCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON APARTHEID. FRANCE WOULD NOT USE ITS VETO TO DEFEND SOUTH AFRICA AT THE UN "WHENEVER WE CONSIDER THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS WRONG". FRANCE'S NUCLEAR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID, WERE CONFINED TO THE SALE OF A REACTOR TO BE USED FOR THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY AS FOR ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA, ONCE THE EXISTING CONTRACTURAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SOUTH AFRICA WAS TERMINATED, FRANCE WOULD NO LONGER PROVIDE ARMS. FRANCE DOES NOT APPROVE OF INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND, AS A RESULT OF GUIRINGAUD'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA", ALL FRENCH FIRMS WILL BE DISCOURAGED FROM DOING SO EVEN MORE." GUIRINGAUD ALSO SAID FRANCE WILL INVESTIGATE A LITTLE DEEPER INTO THE FRENCH OIL COMPANY ACCUSED OF TAKING PART IN RHODESIAN SANCTION BUSTING.

4. AT HIS DEPARTURE GUIRINGAUD LASHED OUT AT TASS FOR REPORTING THAT FRANCE IS HELPING SOUTH AFRICA TO BUILD  
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NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE SAID FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD FORMALLY POSTEST TO THE SOVIETS THIS DISTORTION OF THE TRUTH.

5. IN TALKING WITH THE PRESS, GUIRINGAUD DESCRIBED HIS VISIT TO ZAMBIA AS A BREAKTHROUGH IN IMPROVING ZAMBIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS AND IN IMPROVING ZAMBIAN UNDERSTANDING OF FRANCE'S AFRICAN POLICY. DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS GUY GEORGY TOLD EMBOFF THAT GUIRINGAUD WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT AND BELIEVED THAT HE HAD ACHIEVED HIS OBJECTIVE ON CONVINCING ZAMBIANS THAT FRANCE WAS SINCERE IN ITS SUPPORT FOR WHAT INTERESTS PRESIDENT KAUNDA MOST--MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

6. GEORGY ALSO SAID THAT THE MAJOR REASON FOR GUIRINGAUD'S TRIP WAS TO STRENGTHEN FRANCE'S TIES WITH ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. FRANCE HE SAID RECOGNIZES THAT AFRICA IS ITS ONE SEMI-GUARANTEED SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY AND THAT AFRICA HAS A MARKET POTENTIAL WHICH CANNOT BE NEGLECTED. ANOTHER REASON FOR GUIRINGAUDS TRIP, ACCORDING TO GEORGY WAS TO DISPLAY FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIAN INITIATIVE.

COMMENT: GUIRINGAUDS VISIT PROBABLY DID HELP TO IMPROVE  
RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA. HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT FRANCE'S WILLING-  
NESS TO PUT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA WAS OBVIOUSLY WELCOMED.  
ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO JUDGE FRANCE BY HOW WELL IT LIVES  
UP TO PROMISES TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM SOUTH AFRICA  
MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY. WHENEVER FRANCE DEVIATES FROM  
ITS PROMISES ON THIS SCORE THE ZAMBIANS WILL TAKE IT  
OUT ON FRENCH-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS  
LOW

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## Message Attributes

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